



2001 Department of Defense Personnel Recovery Conference

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) will chair the fourth annual DOD Personnel Recovery Conference at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia, January 22-24, 2001. Analytic Services, Incorporated (ANSER) will host the conference in coordination with the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA).

DPMO has hosted this event since the inaugural conference at the U.S. Army War College in 1997. The conferences have proven extremely useful in advancing the awareness of personnel recovery throughout the Department, and have resulted in numerous new initiatives that have enhanced the Department's ability to recover isolated personnel. Some of these initiatives include: 1) formation of an intelligence community personnel recovery coordinating group; 2) formation of a personnel recovery technology working group; 3) commencement of a major mission area analysis for the personnel recovery function; 4) advocacy to combine the various personnel recovery focused organizations into a single jointly-manned agency, the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency; 5) initiation of a personnel recovery Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration; 6) and many other significant accomplishments. More importantly, however, personnel recovery has become an issue of much greater priority and visibility amongst the senior DoD and national leadership.

As in the past, the primary goal of this year's conference is to build upon the successes of previous conferences and continue increasing the awareness of personnel recovery requirements. Our objective is to stimulate an exchange of ideas that will frame an aggressive DoD strategy to take personnel recovery into the next century. Conference participants will examine policy level personnel recovery issues, discuss their current status, and find solutions or recommend courses of action for those requiring resolution at the DoD level.

Attendance and active participation by key members of the personnel recovery community are crucial to a successful DoD personnel recovery program. In addition to inviting key members of DoD leadership, DPMO will invite intelligence community leaders, senior officials from the interagency community, and industry representatives. Additionally, and for the first time, we are opening participation to our allied and coalition partners. Unlike in previous years where the physical plant of the conference location limited the number of participants, the Hyatt will be able to accommodate as many participants as wish to attend.

DPMO has developed a draft agenda for consideration by the personnel recovery community (attached). If your office would like to suggest changes to the proposed agenda, present workshop topics, or suggest possible speakers, please notify DPMO of your desires not later than August 1, 2000. Keep in mind, however, that there is a limited amount of time for presentations, presentations should focus on policy level issues, and we cannot cover everything.

Pre-registration will occur entirely on-line through the NDIA (<http://www.ndia.org>). We encourage you to visit the NDIA web site and provide them your name and address. NDIA will in turn provide you information on the conference and details for registration. Please advise as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

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